(iii) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has relaxed the distance for laying outdoor cables from 2.5 Km. to 5.0 Km. of Landline Exchanges to facilitate larger coverage in the rural areas from the existing exchanges.

(iv) BSNL is deploying its Mobile Network in all the Highways, Important Towns, Pilgrim Centres and State Highways to give incidental coverage to large parts of rural areas. BSNL has planned to procure 60 million lines on GSM technology, which will eventually major part of the country including rural areas.

(v) Further to improve the status of rural telephony and for introduction of cellular service in rural areas, a bill for amendment to the Telegraph Act has been introduced in the Parliament on May 19, 2006.

(vi) Subsidy support is being provided for about 18,65,690 Rural DELs in the eligible SDCAs during the period 01-04-2002 and 31-03-2005.

(vii) A proposal is under active consideration of the Government to extend subsidy support for creation of infrastructure to provide mobile services in rural and remote areas, where there is no existing wireless coverage.

(viii) In addition to the efforts made by BSNL, the private operators are also offering their services to meet the demand for telephones.

Cyber crimes

2134. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the cyber crimes reported during the last two years;

(b) the action taken on each of such complaints; and

(c) the main features of the Indian cyber laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The primary responsibility for

registration, investigation and prosecution of crimes lies with the State Government. As per the data maintained by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), 247 cyber crimes were registered under the Information Technology Act during 2004 and 2005 and 252 persons were arrested. During the same period, 581 cyber crimes were registered under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and 706 persons were arrested.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) registered six cases during this period: out of which four cases are pending trial, one case has been compounded and one case is under investigation.

(c) The Information Technology Act, 2000 provides legal recognition for transactions carried out by means of electronic data interchange and other means of electronic communication, commonly referred as 'Electronic Commerce'. Chapter IX of the Information Technology Act 2000, covering sections 43 to 47 provides for 'Penalties and Adjudications'. Chapter XI of the said Act covering sections 65 to 76, provides for 'Offences'.

Impact of foreign wars on Indians abroad

2135. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians affected due to US invasion in Iraq and Israel's Lebanon war;

(b) the actions taken by Government so far to evacuate the Indians from these countries; and

(c) the action taken by India so far at diplomatic level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Most Indian nationals voluntarily left Iraq before the outbreak of hostilities in 2003. Approximately 74 Indians still resident in Iraq were directly affected by the hostilities. 65 of them returned to India. One Indian national was repatriated to India at Government expense. Our Mission in Baghdad renders all possible